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Date: July 28, 2006

/Christina M. Padamonsky/

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Eric J. Horvitz

Examiner: Isaac M. Woo

Serial No: 10/620,116

Art Unit: 2166

Filing Date: July 15, 2003

Title: METHODS FOR ROUTING ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATIONS BASED ON A  
MEASURE OF CRITICALITY

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

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**REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT DATED JUNE 28, 2006**

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This Reply is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on June 28, 2006 in connection with the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner requires restriction to one of the following three groups of claims:

Group I – Claims 5-21, drawn to a method, determining a priority of a received item utilizing the trained classifier and item priority is utilized to facilitate electronic communication, which is message priority, classified in class 709, subclass 207;

Group II – Claims 22-33, drawn to method, routing the item for communications based on at least a routing criteria and generated priority, which is prioritizing data routing, classified in class 709, subclass 240; and

Group III – Claims 34-39, drawn to a system, trains a classifier utilizing predefined data sets, classifying a received item, which is data classification, classified in class 707, subclass 7.

Applicants' representative hereby elects with traverse Group I (Claims 5-21, drawn to a method, determining a priority of a received item utilizing the trained classifier and item priority is utilized to facilitate electronic communication, which is message priority) for further prosecution on the merits.

Should there be any questions regarding this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with submission of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063  
[MSFTP263USA].

Respectfully submitted,  
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